ONTARIO PROVINCIAL POLICE
Provincial Operations Intelligence Bureau

SITUATION REPORT

DATE: 2022-02-09 **FILE NAME: Project HENDON**

Report#: 038-2022 **Event: Freedom Convoy/BearHug 2.0**

Protected B - Medium Sensitivity - Particularly sensitive information requiring protection.		
☒	**Third Party Rule**	This information cannot be used, duplicated or disseminated without approval from the author.

The information in this report is current to 2022-02-09 at 1500 hours.

Owing to the current social protest landscape this Situation Report is organized into three main sections, each with specific information relevant to **Ottawa, Toronto, and Ontario.**

PREFACE: ***The format of this Situation Report delineates between police information and information gathered through open sources. Media and social media information has been incorporated in this report towards developing all-source intelligence in support of providing greater context, and which may identify indicators, ideologies, and attitudes that could motivate subjects of interest and influence their behaviours.***

TACTICAL INFORMATION

- RCMP reporting indicates that blockade supporters, organizers, or influencers may be starting to use the BRIDGEFY mobile application to communicate as a pre-emptive measure should internet service be disrupted.
- Information continues to be shared via the s.37 App.
- There appears to have been a deliberate misinformation campaign this morning which likely sought to divert law enforcement away from Ottawa.
- Social media comments continue to suggest actions be staged at or near Ports of Entry and critical infrastructure. This includes recent comments which identify rail blockades as an effective mechanism to disrupt the economy and elicit a response from government.

OTTAWA: POLICE INFORMATION & OBSERVATIONS

Items in this section are presented in order of seriousness of the potential threat:

The OPP continues to be engaged in this initiative with resources on the ground providing real-time updates and observations to the National Capital Region Command Centre – Combined Intelligence Group as events unfold.

Ontario Chiefs of Police
2022-FEB-09 @ 1300 hrs
OPP-POIB

- OPP resources report increased tension and more defiance amongst the truck drivers at the blockade. Appearance of anti-police signage.
- Police information reported protesters become visibly agitated in response to OPS officers confiscating fuel and this elicits a reaction from supporters who then attend the area.
- Police observations noted 3 dumpsters, 25 portable toilettes, and 3 saunas, along with several wooden pallets and a quantity of corded wood remain on site at 302 Coventry Rd.
- Police information reports organizers expressed displeasure regarding comments suggesting Family and Child Services would be coming to assess the welfare of children in the Freedom Convoy. Organizers indicated this narrative in combination with statements by police leadership are a deliberate attempt to instigate issues amongst participants.

OTTAWA: OPEN SOURCE INFORMATION (Media and Social Media)

Items in this section are presented in order of seriousness of the potential threat:

1. Personal Info. early morning video advising the convoy would relocate to Toronto today was not well received by convoy supporters, with many surmising that Person. caved to political pressure. It was later learned that this video was a deliberate misinformation campaign, described as playing 'cat and mouse'.
2. The Canada-Unity MOU has been removed from the Canada-Unity website and replaced by a statement that "the MOU does not reflect the spirit and intent of the Freedom Convoy 2022" and had "unintended interpretations." Prior its removal, the document garnered 320,000 signatures. The removal follows statements from leadership figures Tom QUIGGIN and Daniel BULFORD which addressed accusations of "terrorism" and "insurrection".
3. Today's Freedom Convoy Daily Intelligence Report included an assessment which asserted the following in relation to law enforcement and the legal implications of their actions:
    - *"A variety of figures in police forces are increasingly uneasy with their role in being told to raid the Freedom Convoy or use aggressive police tactics."*
    - *"Absenteeism is up and the demand for resources is leaving other police forces stretched for manpower (Durham Regional, Peel Regional, OPP, Toronto, etc)."*
    - *"Some individuals in the Senior NCO ranks may have stepped back from their operational positions due to concerns about the legality and morality of senior police officials."*
    - *Other issues arising are:*
        a. *Do truck drivers have an expectation of privacy in their trucks, especially those who live in their trucks? In other words, a person's home is their castle, and a search warrant may be required to enter/search/move the home.*
        b. *If a trucker is locked in his vehicle while a police raid is occurring, is that person a "barricaded person" with respect to how police must react? This complicates how police must treat individual situations.*
4. In a press conference held today, organizers shared the following information and updates:
    - Tamara LICH has been named the President of the Freedom Convoy.

Ontario Chief of Police
2022-FEB-09 @ 1800hrs
OPP PROB

- Organizers have chosen to use BITCOIN currency as funds cannot be frozen in Canada and this will facilitate their receipt of global donations without obstruction. TD Canada allegedly froze the CAD $1,000,000 that had been released by GO FUND ME. Truckers will have bitcoin wallets.
- Organizers stated they have funded a 'legal war chest' which will be used toward defensive and offensive tactics – references were made to becoming aggressive and media and government. As of 16:00 hours, the BITCOIN donations amounted to CAD $833,000.
- Currently it is difficult for organizers to give funds to truckers and they are working with the owner of GIVE SEND GO to avoid future issues that may arise.
- Organizers made clarifying statements surrounding their objectives – they only seek to accomplish a repeal of 'mandates'; any other stated objectives, such as accomplishing governmental change is not representative of their core organization.
- Organizers reported a contingent of 1500 would be joining them from Alberta. It is unknown if this contingent will be largely made up of truckers, passenger vehicles or a mix of both.
- Families are encouraged to attend, the atmosphere is akin to that of a festival.
- Organizers inferred that a lack of enforcement around fuel seizures was an indicator of front-line officers demonstrating solidarity with protesters.

5. A video shared through social media depicts persons becoming agitated and upset with an OPS officer attempting to confiscate fuel; protesters react with yelling and follow the officer.
6. Social media for Ontario MPP Randy HILLIER, a supporter and influencer of those participating in the Ottawa blockade, indicates that he was interviewed on RT on February 7, 2022. RT, formerly RUSSIA TODAY, is reported to be a Russian government-controlled platform for directing disinformation at the West to benefit the strategic foreign policy objectives Russian State.[1]
7. In an online video, Personal claimed that "they" want to come in with many police officers and that a containment unit was being built in Lansdowne for people who would be arrested. Perso issued a call for "everybody" to get to Ottawa and encircle the city because the authorities are lying.
8. An online video features Personal claiming that the government has infiltrated his bank account to prevent him from either receiving or sending e-transfers and is preventing him from sending or receiving emails. Pers also states that he banks with the Alberta Treasury Branch, an Alberta-owned bank that he alleges the federal government can't control or access. He then threatens the federal government with a lawsuit.
9. Posts shared on social media pages for Randy HILLIER indicate that two "blue collar" convoys would take place in Ottawa on 2022-02-13 **(see Anticipated Events)**.
10. A location identified as 1500 Bronson Ave, the parking lot of the former CBC building, has become a potential re-supply camp.
11. Information shared on s.37 advised newcomers to attend the farm location in Embrun and to avoid Coventry.
12. Social media content identified two RV's associated to Personal Info. attended the U.S. Embassy this morning, indicating she remains in the Ottawa area.

[1] Monah Elswah and Philip N. Howard, "'Anything That Causes Chaos': The Organizational Behavior of Russia Today (RT)", Oxford University, *Journal of Communication No. 70* (2020), pp. 623-645 ISSN 0021-9916, DOI: 10.1093/joc/jqaa027

Ontario Chiefs of Police
2022-FEB-09 @ 800hrs
OPP POB

TORONTO: POLICE INFORMATION & OBSERVATIONS

- TPS continues to monitoring the protest landscape. There are no active events to report at this time.

TORONTO: OPEN SOURCE INFORMATION (Media and Social Media)

- A poster was shared through social media channels associated with the Freedom Convoy advocating for individuals to organize actions directed at legislature buildings across the country. A tag line read: "There's more than one place the government operates from." Messages identified Toronto as a starting point.
- **Tentative information** regarding possible freedom convoy at Queens Park on 2022-02-12. (See Anticipated Events.)

ONTARIO: POLICE INFORMATION & OBSERVATIONS

PORTS OF ENTRY

- **Windsor – Ambassador Bridge** – Approximately 200 protestors in the area. One northbound lane northbound into US remains open; and one northbound lane into Canada remains open for emergency vehicles.
    - Protesters have indicated they intend to leave their tractors overnight, and into the weekend. The spokesperson for the event has advised that they will be protesting for an extended period of time and have no intentions on moving until they hear from the government.
    - Protesters advised that they have more vehicles attending; and if they are unable to get on the ramp, they will come through the fields along Hwy 402 or by other means.
- **Sarnia –** There is an ongoing blockade action at the Bluewater Bridge, also undertaken as a means of support to the Ottawa occupation.

ONTARIO: OPEN SOURCE INFORMATION (Media and Social Media)

- Social media messaging was identified on the [s.37 redacted] regarding the Windsor slowdown calling for people to attend the bridge. We infer that this is a reference to the Ambassador Bridge.

Ontario Chiefs of Police
2022-FEB-09 @ 1800hrs
OPP-POR

OTHER

- A poster was shared through social media channels associated with the Freedom Convoy advocating for individuals to organize actions directed at legislature buildings across the country. A tag line read: "There's more than one place the government operates from." Messages identified Toronto as a starting point.
- Efforts continue to identify online videos by people who self-identify as serving police officers praising the blockade or criticizing police response.
- The new fundraiser on GIVESENDGO has raised almost $7.7 M USD and a Bitcoin wallet for the blockade contains over $833,000 CAD. The ADOPT A TRUCKER account on GIVESENDGO has raised almost $639,000 CAD.

ASSESSMENT

The situation in Ottawa remains fluid and represents a public safety threat, an officer safety threat, and a potential threat to national security. Organizers appear to have convened a number of meetings and engaged in planning toward assessing the position of law enforcement. This appears to have resulted in some changes within their leadership structure and assignment of roles towards a more coordinated effort with cohesive messaging. However, this may not extend to Pat KING, where core organizers appear to be distancing themselves further from him. Pers continues to share messages and updates which relate to conspiratorial musings and it remains unclear to what extent he holds an influence within the protest body. The deliberate manipulation of social media by Personal Info. and where it was directed at law enforcement may be a subtle assertion of power that could signal the core organizers are ready to engage in 'antics' that could lead to a protracted and convoluted resolution. Within the leadership apparatus are experienced law enforcement and intelligence professionals, this appears to have the manifold effect of reassuring the protest body that they are qualified to anticipate law enforcement tactics, and that no crimes are being committed by remaining steadfast in their position. Overall, the events in Ottawa have proven to have considerable support as measured by funding, logistics, participant numbers, and more recently the number ancillary actions which continue to increase. In this respect, the current blockade at the Windsor US-Canada border underscores the potential for major events to occur concomitantly which, in addition to placing a significant strain on law enforcement resources, leverages economic disruption as a means of applying pressure to the federal government.

Project HENDON has identified no concrete, specific, or credible threat with regard to the Freedom Convoy protest, Operation BearHug 2.0., or local solidarity protests.

However, the situation is volatile. The potential for an act of violence is likely increasing as the blockade continues, and as supporters across the country organize local and regional support actions.

Ontario Chiefs of Police
2022 FEB 09 @ 1800hrs
OPP BOR

ANTICIPATED EVENTS – Support actions (chronological)

This list is derived from information provided by the OPP and its partners. Many of these events have been identified through social media.

The overall situation is fluid: these events may change and spontaneous events may occur without warning.

2022-02-10

- **Ottawa: Convoy from Moncton NB –** convoy to Ottawa, organizers indicate they are staying for the weekend only
- **Hanover-Walkerton: Freedom Convoy** driving circular local loop (1800hrs)

2022-02-11

- **Sarnia: Tractor Convoy -** HWY 402 westbound Kerrwood exit (0600hrs). Organizers plan to block the highway until all mandates are lifted.
- **Kawartha Lakes: Rise Up Kawartha Lakes Convoy to Ottawa** – departing from Lindsay Square Mall every Friday until freedom is restored(0800hrs)
- **Ontario: School Walkout to Lift Mandates**
- **Hanover-Walkerton: Freedom Convoy** driving circular local loop (1800hrs)

2022-02-12

- **Ottawa: Call for Freedom Rally –** Parliament Hill (no further details)
- **Toronto: Freedom Convoy Toronto Round Two –** Queens Park 2022-02-12 (1100hrs). Stating they will not leave this time until all mandate are lifted. Meeting at the following locations at 1000hrs:
  - Vaughan Mills
  - Yorkdale Mall
  - Sherway Gardens
  - Square One
- **Toronto:** Mandate Freedom - Peaceful Assembly – Queen's Park (1200hrs)
- **Hamilton: Protest at City Hall** (1400hrs)
- **Saint-Honoré-de-Shenley: Convoy to Ottawa** (0600hrs)
- **Montreal: Rally "Unis dans l'amour pour la liberté"** (1300hrs) – some participants will go to Ottawa
- **Kingston: Slow Roll** – HWY 38 carpool (1300hrs)
- **Niagara Falls: USA-Canada Convoys 2022** – Peace Bridge (1100hrs) – currently being organized only on the New York side of the border
- **Huntsville**: Anti-Regulation Protest – Huntsville Place Mall along Hwy 11 to Doe Lake Rd and return (1100hrs)
- **Haliburton**: Haliburton Freedom Rally (unconfirmed)

Ontario Chiefs of Police
2022-FEB-09 @ 1800hrs
OPP-POIB

- **Bracebridge**: Anti-Regulation Protest – memorial Park, to be joined by Huntsville convoy (no further details)
- **Lindsay: Rise Up Kawartha Lakes Freedom Skate and Protest** – Victoria Park (1300hrs – 1500hrs) every Saturday until freedom is restored
- **Tillsonburg: Oxford Freedom Convoy –** 400 Simcoe St. (1200 hrs). Estimating 500 vehicles (farm tractors, passenger vehicles and tractor trailers).
- **Hanover-Walkerton: Freedom Convoy** driving circular local loop (1800hrs)
- **London: Freedom Convoy #2 – 4350 Wellington Rd S Parking Lot (1400hrs meet; 1500hrs rollout. London: Local Convoy – Heading to Ambassador Bridge afterwards**

2022-02-13

- **Ottawa: Blue Collar Convoy – 2022-02-13 starting at GRCT Park (btb RCGT Park, 302 Coventry Rd, Ottawa) two routes:**
  - **East Route:** departing GRCT Park 0900hrs; stopping at the RA centre then to Parliament Hill
  - **West Route:** departing Canadian Tire Centre, 1000 Palladium Drive, Ottawa (0900hrs) to Parliament Hill
- **Hanover-Walkerton: Freedom Convoy** driving circular local loop (1800hrs)

Ontario Chiefs of Police
2022-FEB-09 @ 1800hrs
OPP-POIB

ONTARIO PROVINCIAL POLICE

Provincial Operations Intelligence Bureau

Authors:	Catherine Palermo, Intelligence Analyst Michael HILTZ, Open Source Specialist	Jeff Baks, Intelligence Analyst
Approved: Date:	Brent Elbers, D/S/Sergeant 09 February 2022	*B. ELBERS*

Ontario Chiefs of Police
2022-FEB-09 @ 1800hrs
OPP-POIB